

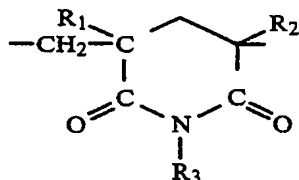
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to focus on Applicant's method of increasing the strength properties of glass-reinforced polymer compositions by blending at least one phenoxy polymer with at least one aromatic polycondensation polymer and glass to produce a polymer composition being substantially free of polyamide. Claim 55 has been limited to aromatic polycondensation polymers that are polyarylethersulfones selected from the group consisting of polysulfone (PSU), polyphenylsulfone (PPSU), polyethersulfone (PES), and polyetherethersulfone (PEES), and copolymers and mixtures thereof. Support for this amendment is found in, e.g., cancelled Claims 39, 40 and 57 and in the paragraph bridging specification pages 13-14. New Claims 60-67 are supported by Claims 53, 54, and 59, specification page 5, lines 3-6, page 6, lines 11-13, page 7, lines 9-11, page 9, lines 9-10, and the paragraph bridging pages 17-18. No new matter has been entered.

The rejection of the pending claims is obvious over Hallden (U.S. 5,344,868) in view of van den Berg (U.S. 6,197,898) is traversed.

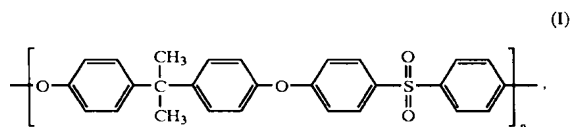
Hallden relates to polyglutarimide/glass fiber combinations that have, essentially, nothing to do with the presently claimed method of blending at least one phenoxy polymer with a polyarylethersulfone selected from the presently claimed Markush group and glass to produce a polymer composition substantially free of polyamide. Polyglutarimides are described at column 1, lines 29ff of Hallden as follows:

Polyglutarimides, otherwise known as polymethacrylimides, are polymers which contain the unit

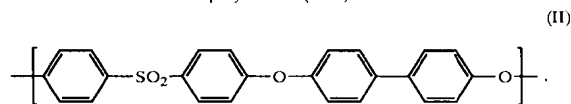


wherein R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and are hydrogen or lower alkyl of up to four carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, or butyl, and R^3 is H or alkyl, such as methyl, butyl, dodecyl, and the like. The polyglutarimides best known to the art are those where R^1 and R^2 are methyl and R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, other lower alkyl, or cyclohexyl. Particularly preferred are those polymers derived from poly(methyl methacrylate) and monomethylamine, where $R^1=R^2=R^3$ =methyl.

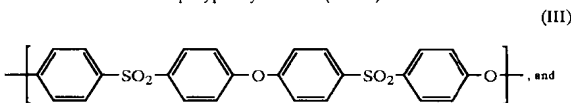
which, in no way, relate to any of Applicants' presently claimed polyarylethersulfones:



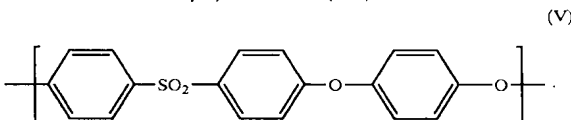
polysulfone (PSU)



polyphenylsulfone (PPSU)



polyethersulfone (PES)



polyetherethersulfone (PEES)

van den Berg is relied on to make up for these omissions.

van den Berg relates to epoxy resin blends where an epoxy resin and a thermoplastic polymer together are mixed together with an epoxy curing agent or catalyst at high temperature to form “a substantially uncured but essentially curable and/or polymerizable composition.” See, e.g., column 3, lines 9-24 of the reference. Of course, this reference in no way relates to Hallden, as the thermoplastic polymers of van den Berg 1.) do not include polyglutarimide (see, e.g., column 8, lines 1-16 of van den Berg, and note that van den Berg specifically includes therein as an equivalent thermoplastic resin polyamide at column 8, line 11) and 2.) the blends of Hallden do not include epoxy resins, which are the point of van den Berg.

What the combination of Hallden and van den Berg does teach, at best, is that the blending of polymeric materials is difficult and unpredictable, and that the physical properties of glass-reinforced polyglutarimides are improved when a low level of phenoxy resin is incorporated into the blend and that uncured epoxy resins can be melt mixed with certain thermoplastic polymers at temperatures above the glass transition temperature or above the melting temperature thereof. What the references do not teach or suggest is a method as presently claimed comprising blending at least one phenoxy polymer with at least one of PSU, PPSU, PES, or PEES and glass to produce a polymer composition substantially free of polyamide. As shown in the several Examples and Controls present in the specification, Applicant’s presently claimed method provides blends having a substantial improvement in tensile and flexural properties, as well as impact properties. In addition to the fact that the combination of references fails to suggest the basic steps of Applicant’s presently claimed method, they also fail to disclose or suggest the substantial benefits provided by this method.

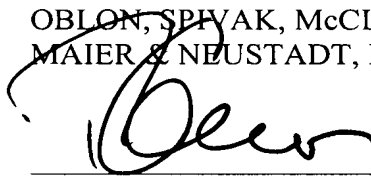
Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments to the claims and the above comments, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and the passage of this case to Issue.

Application No. 10/525,459
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2008

Finally, Applicants request that their claim to priority be acknowledged, and that the Office note that a Request for Corrected Filing Receipt was filed on October 4, 2005, listing in addition to PCT/US03/26497 filed August 26, 2003, Applicants' U.S. provisional application priority document filed August 26, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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